Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the

application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A network storage system for supplying a storage to a

plurality of clients through a network;

wherein said system includes:

a first device provided with a disk device; and

a second device for managing ~~the~~ a connection to said plurality of clients;

wherein said first device allocates an area of said disk device to said second

device;

wherein said second device allocates a ~~lower area~~ portion of said area

allocated from said first device to each of said plurality of clients; and

wherein said second device is provided with means for translating a source

network address to a specific network address to be transferred to said first device

even when receiving a request from any one of a plurality of network addresses

denoting said plurality of clients~~;~~.

2. (Original) The network storage system according to claim 1,

wherein said second device adds a preset name of said area allocated from said first device to a file name included in said access request received from said client and transfers said file name to said first device.

3. (Currently Amended) The network storage system according to claim 2,

wherein said system, when said second device is started up, encodes an identifier specific to said second device, then transfers said encoded identifier to said first device, while said first device decodes said device identifier received from said second device and compares said device identifier received from said second device with device identifiers described in a table stored in said first device so as enable those identifier-described devices described by the device identifiers to be connected to their objects.

4. (Currently Amended) The network storage system according to claim 3,

wherein said first device requests said second device for transferring of its device identifier periodically, and inhibits said second device to access said allocated area when receiving no response from said second device or when said device identifier is not found in said table stored in itself the first device and used to describe devices enabled to access said allocated disk area.

5. (Original) The network storage system according to claim 2,

wherein said first device, when said second device is started up, transfers the

name of said area allocated to said second device.

6. (Original) The network storage system according to claim 5,

wherein said first device notifies said second device of a usable capacity

when said second device is started up and said second device makes a check

whether or not said capacity is exceeded when receiving a write request from a client

and rejects said write request if said capacity is exceeded.

7. (Original) The network storage system according to claim 2,

wherein said second device encodes a write or read request from a client,

then transfers said encoded request to said first device.

8. (Currently Amended) The network storage system according to claim 2,

wherein said second device, when a client's file is to be transferred between a

plurality of said to another said second device, devices, determines whether or not

said file is transferred between different networks and converts the a user identifier

described in the management information of said file if YES is the a check result.

9. (Currently Amended) The network storage system according to claim 8, wherein

said second device, when having transferred said file, deletes the

management information related to said client who has transferred said file

therefrom, and said ~~destination~~ another second device adds the management

information related to said client thereto.

10. (Original) The network storage system according to claim 2, wherein

said second device is built in said first device.

11. (Currently Amended) A network storage system connected to a network to

which a plurality of clients are connected, said system comprising:

a network file device for managing a plurality of disk devices; and

a client management device for relaying an access request issued from a

client to a disk device and translating said client address to its address to access

said disk device,

wherein said network file device allocates areas of said disk devices to said

client management device, and

wherein said client management device allocates a portion of said area

allocated from said network file device to each of said plurality of clients.

12. (Currently Amended) A network storage system connected to a network to

which a plurality of clients are connected, said system comprising:

a network file device for managing a plurality of disk devices; and

a client management device for relaying an access request issued from a

client to a disk device;

wherein said network file device allocates a predetermined area of each of

said plurality of disk devices to said client management device; and

wherein said client management device divides said predetermined area

allocated ~~to itself~~ by the network file device, and allocates ~~said divided~~ portions of

said predetermined area ~~areas~~ to said plurality of clients.

13. (Currently Amended) The network storage system according to claim 12,

wherein said network file device has a primary cache for storing copy

information, which is at least partly ~~of said~~ disk device information; and

wherein said client management device has a secondary cache for storing

part of said copy information stored in said primary cache, which corresponds to said

predetermined area allocated ~~itself~~ to said client management device.

14. (Currently Amended) The network storage system according to claim 12,

wherein said network file device and said network storage system are united

into one unit ~~or separated from each other and connected to each other through a~~

~~network~~.

15. (New) The network storage system according to claim 12,

wherein said network file device and said network storage system are

separated from each other and connected to each other through a network.